XVI.

An Account of the Earthquake on Thurſday *Morning*, March 8, 1749. *as ſeen in the* Inner Temple *Garden, by* Robert Shaw (*a very ſenſible* Scotchman) *then at Work there; communicated by* James Burrow *Eſq; F. R. S.*

Read March 15. 1749. HE was juſt come into the Garden (at half an Hour after 5), and was ſcarce arrived at the great Tree, near the little Door under *Harcourt's* Buildings (which is about 10 or 12 Yards perhaps diſtant from *Harcourt's* Buildings), when he heard a GREAT NOISE, LOUDER BY MUCH than the Noiſe of the Exploſions upon the Proof of the *Great Cannon* at *Woolwich*, when full-charged (at which Proofs he has been often preſent); nay *louder, he thought, than* ANY *Noiſe he ever heard.* This Noiſe ſeemed to come from behind the Buildings; and his Face was then oppoſite to them.

At the ſame Inſtant he ſaw the whole Building *move upwards*, then *incline forwards* towards him (ſo that he thought it would fall upon him); then *recline backwards*, and then *ſettle*; at which time all the *Windows rattled and clatter'd*, as upon an Exploſion of a Cannon; the Sound in the Interim *rolling away* (ſeemingly from the Water-ſide up towards *Temple-Bar*) juſt like the rolling Sound or Echo which accompanies or ſucceeds the Exploſion of Thunder, or of Ship Guns.

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As to the Continuance, he often expreſſed himſelf that it was *as a Thought*; and, in point of Time, he ſuppoſed it could not be 3 Seconds.

The Sound and the Motion began both together; but the Sound was quite rolled off, rather *ſooner* than the Buildings were ſettled.

I asked him how much he judged the Declination of the Building to have been *from the Perpendicular?* He anſwer'd, "That it was impoſſible to be "exact in relating that Particular, both by reaſon of "the Surpriſe he was in, and alſo from the Sud-"denneſs of the whole Compaſs of the Appearance, "which was but as a Thought." However, in order to form ſome Notion of it, I made a comparative Inclination of the Garden-Key, which I held perpendicular to my Hand, and moved backwards and forwards, till he ſhould judge it to approach neareſt to what he could recollect of the Heeling of the Buildings (which indeed was but an inaccurate Method of coming at the Truth of a Thing profeſſedly uncertain even to the Relator): It ſeemed to me, by his Deſcription in this rough Compariſon (in which I might eaſily miſtake him) to be a Declination of ſeveral Degrees from the Perpendicular; which is alſo agreeable to his Apprehenſion, that the Building would fall upon him. Poſſibly, his Surprize might magnify the Appearance far beyond the Reality.

I then inquired what Perception he had of his own *perſonal Motion*, and that of the particular Spot of *Ground whereon he then ſtood?* He ſaid, his Surprize was ſo great, on ſeeing ſo new and uncommon an Appearance (for he was not in or near

London when the laſt Earthquake happen'd), that he either had *no Perception* at all concerning himſelf and the Ground under him; or at leaſt was ſo intirely engaged in obſerving what he ſaw and heard, that he had no Attention to what he felt.

N. B. I made this Memorandum immediately after after converſing with this *Robert Shaw*; and therefore I ſuppoſe it contains a tolerably exact Account of what he related to me.

Friday Morning, March 9. 1749.

James Burrow.

XVII.

The Rev. H. Miles *D. D. F. R. S. to Mr.* H. Baker *F. R. S. containing a more full Account of the ſame than his former Letter*, Art. XII.

Read March 15. 1749.

I NOW ſend you the beſt Account I am able of the Earthquake which was ſo generally felt in the City, and round about it, on the 8th inſtant in the Morning at 5^h 40′ nearly, equal time.

I was then ſtanding in my Study, when I heard a Noiſe, at the firſt Moment, very like the Exploſion I heard ſeveral Years ago, when ſome drying and Storehouſes of Gunpowder were blown up about 6 Miles from us: This Noiſe iſſued in a Murmur in the Air, like diſtant Thunder, and ended like a ruſhing Wind: There was no perceivable Intermiſſion

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